

religious heritage, but absolutely convinced that our common humanity is the most important thing of all.

If I could have one wish at the close of my service, it would not be for your continued prosperity—if I only had one—although I dearly hope you'll have it. It would not be even for every one of your children to get a college degree, although I deeply hope they will. If I could only have one wish, it would be that somehow, we could lay down enough of our demons to be one America and live together as brothers and sisters.

So you have been good to me. I love you. I'll never forget you. When I'm not President anymore, I'm still going to try to be a good citizen. I'm going to try to use all the things I've learned and all the things I've done to be of some use in the world. And if I can be of some use to you, all you've got to do is call.

But you remember, meanwhile, I'm going to give you 120 hard days. I'm going to try to finish the peace process in the Middle East. I'm going to try to get as much done in education and other things as I can with this Congress, and I'm going to do what I can to take my case on America's future to people who wish to listen to it.

But the most important thing is to realize we are all term-limited. It's what we do, not who we are as individuals, that matters. Now, if you can help the agents of positive change, we'll build one America. And you recognize that the table is set, but the feast has to be put out there, and it's still out there. That would be good for you, good for your children, good for our country, and good for the world. Meanwhile, if you ever need me, just call.

I love you. Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Renaissance Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Bishop Chandler D. Owens, presiding bishop, Bishop J. Neul Haynes, first assistant, Bishop P.A. Brooks, secretary of the general board, Bishop Melvin E. Clark, director, Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, and Bishop Donnie Lindsey, former director of the Arkansas jurisdiction, Church of God in Christ; Bishop Felton M. Smith, Jr., pastor, Temple of Faith Deliverance Church of God in Christ, Chattanooga, TN; Bishop L.T. Walker, pastor, Holy Temple Cathedral Church of God in Christ, Little Rock, AR; and Alvin Brown, Senior Adviser to the Vice President for Urban Affairs.

## Statement on Awarding Adoption Bonuses to States

*September 20, 2000*

Today's award of nearly \$20 million in adoption bonuses to States demonstrates the dramatic success of our efforts to move more children from the foster care system to loving homes they can call their own. With this second round of awards by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, all 50 States, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have now earned bonuses for increasing the number of children adopted from public foster care. Last year alone, 46,000 foster care children were adopted, an increase of nearly 65 percent since 1996. This puts us well on the way to meeting my goal of doubling the number of adoptions from 28,000 in 1996 to 56,000 by 2002. I commend the States for accepting the challenge to more rapidly move chil-

dren from foster care into permanent homes and the many loving families who have opened their hearts and their homes to adopt children from the foster care rolls.

I also want to thank the First Lady for her commitment and leadership on this issue. Hillary spearheaded my administration's effort to transform our child welfare system and promote adoption by leading the administration's Adoption 2002 initiative, which served as the blueprint for the Adoption and Safe Families Act that I signed into law in 1997. The adoption bonus awards were included as part of my our Adoption 2002 initiative and were enacted as part of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, establishing the first-ever financial incentives to

States to increase adoptions of children waiting in the foster care system.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report of the Trade and Development Agency

*September 20, 2000*

*Dear Mr. Chairman:*

As required by section 201(d) of the Jobs Through Exports Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-549; 22 U.S.C. 2421(d)), I transmit herewith the annual report of the Trade and Development Agency for fiscal year 1999.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, House Committee on International Relations.

## Remarks at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Dinner

*September 20, 2000*

Thank you. Please be seated. Well, in case you haven't figured it out, I'm the warmup act for Los Lobos—[laughter]—and Nydia Rojas and Elvis Crespo and Tito Puente, Jr.

Let me thank you, Lucille, and all the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for all you have done with me and for me these last 8 years. I thank the Institute board members for supporting these fine public servants. I thank the members of my administration who have done so much to make sure your concerns were heard, including Maria Echaveste, Mickey Ibarra, Aida Alvarez, Bill Richardson, Louis Caldera. And I understand we have the honorary Hispanic caucus in the Cabinet here tonight, Secretary Herman, Secretary Slater, and Secretary Mineta. I thank them for coming as well.

Because our administration has looked like America, we've been able to—I hope—serve America better. For example, under Secretary Caldera, the Army is cosponsoring a series of public service announcements targeted at young people between the ages of 12 and 14, many of them Hispanic, focusing on the benefits of staying in high school and getting a diploma. I thank him for that, and I thank you for that.

Last week in Philadelphia, I had an incredible experience—really Sunday, the first day of this week. I went there to dedicate and lay the first

construction beam on what will be America's Constitution Center, where people will be able to go to Philadelphia, learn about how we got started as a nation, learn about how the Constitution was put together and what is in it and how it applies through countless decisions of the United States Supreme Court to all Americans down to the present day. I also had the opportunity to help to swear in as new citizens 73 immigrants from 23 different nations.

And I told them something that the American people and the Members of Congress should never forget: 8 of the 39 men who signed the Constitution were immigrants, including Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, born in the West Indies, and James Wilson of Pennsylvania, who spoke with a heavy Scottish brogue.

From the very beginning, our country has benefited from immigrants. When I went to Germany 4 or 5 years ago, I presented to the German Chancellor a copy of the Declaration of Independence which was printed the day after it was signed, July 5, 1776, in Pennsylvania, in German, because so many of the people who lived in Pennsylvania at that time had German as their first language and spoke limited, if any, English.